

Issue NE-CW1602, released April 22, 2002, by the Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service, USDA . For more information contact us at: 100 Centennial Mall North, Suite 298, Lincoln, NE 68508, 402-437-5541, e-mail at [nass-ne@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-ne@nass.usda.gov), Internet at <http://www.usda.gov/nass/>.

**GENERAL:** Corn planting was well underway across the State despite poor soil moisture supplies, according to the USDA’s Nebraska Agricultural Statistics Service. Above normal temperatures, minimal precipitation, and high winds last week continued to deplete soil moisture supplies across the State. Producer activities included spring fieldwork, fertilizer applications, and caring for livestock.

This release is based on reports and data from county extension educators, FSA county directors, NOAA, and the High Plains Climate Center.

**WEATHER:** Record breaking high temperatures occurred in the eastern half of Nebraska with readings 11 to 12 degrees above normals for the week. Temperatures in the western half averaged from two to five degrees above normals. Precipitation was minimal statewide with a few locations in the eastern half reporting in excess of one inch of rain.

**CROPS: Wheat** condition declined and remained lower than last year and average. Condition currently rated 9 percent very poor, 21 poor, 40 fair, 29 good and 1 excellent. The crop was jointed on 9 percent of the acreage, ahead of 3 last year and near the 11 average. Moisture is needed for proper growth and development. Major wheat growing areas of the State received less than .10 of an inch of moisture during the week.

**Oat** planting was ahead of average at 82% complete and compares with 49 last year and 66 for the five-year average. Forty-four percent had emerged to date, ahead of 11 percent last year and 30 average.

**Sugar beet** planting is well ahead of last year with 59 percent complete. Thirty percent had been planted at this time a year ago.

**Corn** planting was underway in all districts with 8 percent completed to date. This is ahead of 2 percent planted last year and 4 percent for the five-year average.

**Alfalfa** condition rated 2 percent very poor, 10 poor, 39 fair, 46 good, and 3 excellent. As with all other crops, moisture is needed for proper growth this spring.

**LIVESTOCK: Pasture and range** conditions are comparable with last year but well below five-year average ratings. Current rating is 8 percent very poor, 21 poor, 43 fair, and 28 good. Limited moisture so far has caused pastures to green up slowly and producers to be concerned about grazing potential.

**Cattle and calves** condition rated 1 percent poor, 11 fair, 70 good, and 18 excellent. Calving across the State progressed to 91 percent, with calf losses rated mostly average to below average.

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Progress and Conditions: By District, Nebraska, as of April 21, 2002

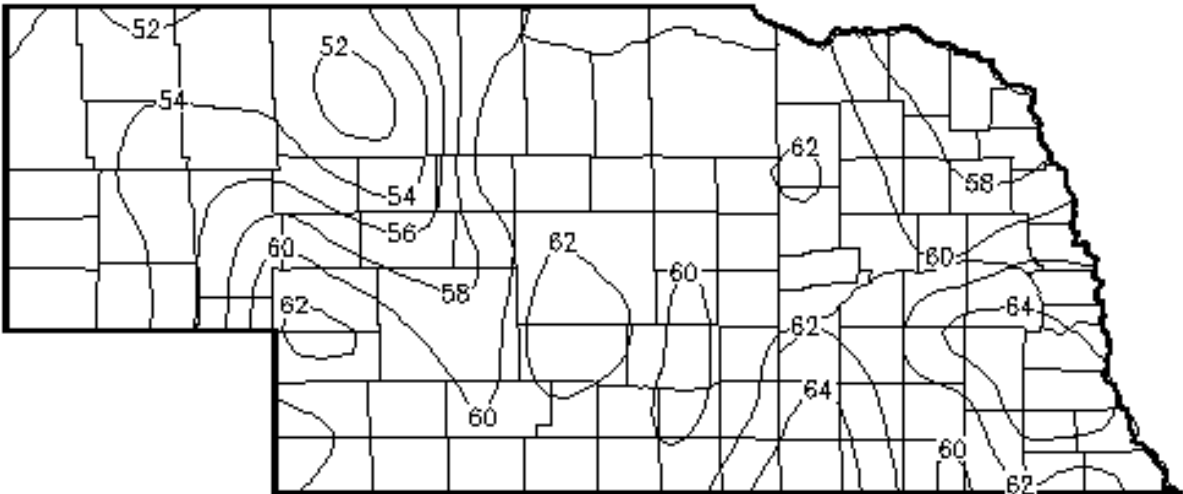
Item	Agricultural Statistics Districts								State	Last Week	Last Year	Average
	NW	NC	NE	C	EC	SW	SC	SE				
% Corn Planted	1	2	4	9	7	5	10	15	8	1	2	4
% Wheat Jointed	0	0	0	3	10	4	26	18	9	1	3	11
% Oats Planted	68	56	83	72	81	99	99	98	82	60	49	66
% Oats Emerged	31	21	41	3	30	65	71	71	44	15	11	30
Days Suitable for Fieldwork	6.3	6.7	5.1	6.5	6.1	7.0	6.4	5.9	6.1	6.1	4.3	3.7
Topsoil Moisture - % Very short	35	2	5	67	22	51	56	17	27	33	1	5
- % Short	29	24	37	23	42	38	33	36	32	31	4	12
- % Adequate	36	74	57	10	35	11	11	47	41	36	87	72
- % Surplus	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	8	11
Subsoil Moisture - % Very Short	27	2	4	32	32	34	38	18	20	20	6	10
- % Short	43	40	39	57	46	40	45	55	45	50	35	19
- % Adequate	30	58	57	11	22	26	17	27	35	30	59	66
- % Surplus	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5

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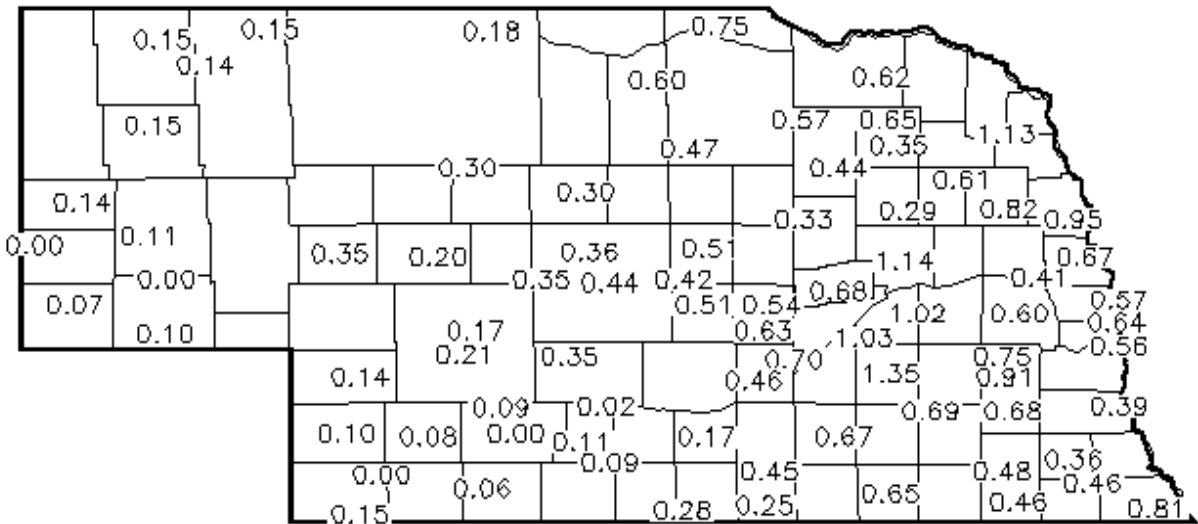
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Seven Day Average Temperature at the Four Inch Depth Under Bare Soil



Source: High Plains Regional Climate Centers Automated Weather Data Network (AWDN).

Precipitation in Inches for Week Ending April 21, 2002



Precipitation: By District, Nebraska, April 1 - April 21, 2002

Item	NW	NC	NE	CEN	EC	SW	SC	SE
Total past week	.10	.47	.65	.49	.80	.10	.19	.56
Total since April 1	.33	.79	.99	.76	1.03	.21	.26	1.15
Normal since April 1	1.19	1.43	1.71	1.64	1.85	1.27	1.40	1.88
Total as % of normal	27%	54%	56%	46%	56%	17%	18%	61%

Source: High Plains Climate Center data as of 8:00 a.m.

Temperature: By District, Nebraska, Week Ending Saturday April 20, 2002

Station		Temperature			
		Extremes		Mean	Departure
		Max	Min		
NW	Chadron	83	25	48	+2
	Scottsbluff	85	26	51	+5
	Sidney	83	24	49	+5
N	Valentine	82	28	52	+5
NE	Norfolk	94	36	61	+11
	Sioux City	96	37	62	+12
C	Grand Island	94	37	62	+12
	Ord	91	30	58	
E	Lincoln	93	39	63	+12
	Omaha	92	42	64	+12
SW	Imperial	88	27	53	+5
	North Platte	86	29	52	+3

Source: National Weather Service, Valley, NE.